

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 SAJ-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 /082 W

----- 091870

R 231513Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6091

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1161

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, AO

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL RECOGNIZES RPA

REFS: (A) LISBON 1143 (DTG 211129Z FEB 76), (B) THOMAS -  
S/S-O TELCON OF FEB 21

1. FONMIN MELO ANTUNES ANNOUNCED AT 5:45 AM LOCAL FEB 22  
THAT PRESIDENT HAD RECOGNIZED MPLA GOVERNMENT. ANNOUNCEMENT  
FOLLOWED EXTRAORDINARY FEB 21-22 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING (REF A)

2. AS YET, THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION TO RECOGNITION  
ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ESTIMATED 300,000 TO 400,000 MAINLY  
ANTI-MPLA ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL.

3. MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES' REACTIONS HAVE BEEN AS  
EXPECTED:

-- PS: EXPRESSING HOPE FOR EARLY PEACE IN ANGOLA AND  
PS DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE  
PROTECTION OF PORTUGUESE INTERESTS THERE. SOCIALIST  
LEADER MARIO SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS  
PRESIDENT WHO HAD MADE RECOGNITION DECISION. CARDIA SAID  
THAT RIGHT OF REFUGEES NOW IN PORTUGAL TO RETURN TO ANGOLA  
SHOULD BE GUARANTEED.

-- PPD: IN TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY SEC GEN SA CARNEIRO BLASTED RECOGNITION DECISION.  
SOVIET-CUBAN INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA, HE SAID, AMOUNTED TO  
"NEO-COLONIALISM." HE REITERATED HIS PARTY'S  
OPPOSITION TO RECOGNITION UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,  
CONSPICUOUSLY ALLEGING PCP, PS, AND, ESPECIALLY, PRESIDENT  
COSTA GOMES'S SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION.

-- PCP: COMMUNIST SPOKESMAN CARLOS ALBOIM INGLES OBSERVED  
THAT HIS PARTY HAD ALWAYS FAVORED RECOGNITION, EXPRESSING  
REGRET ONLY THAT IT HAD NOT COME SOONER.

-- CDS: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY PRESIDENT  
FREITAS DO AMARAL SAW IN THE DECISION A CONDONEMENT OF  
"SOVIET-CUBAN IMPERIALISM." HE TOOK RECOGNITION DECISION  
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AS POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR EXPRESSING CDS LACK OF CONFIDENCE  
IN AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT AND PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN IT.

4. COMMENT: REFUGEE FAILURE TO REACT IMMEDIATELY TO  
RECOGNITION DECISION POINTS UP THEIR CONTINUING INABILITY  
TO DEVELOP THE COHESION, LEADERSHIP, AND INSTITUTIONS  
NECESSARY TO MAKE THEM AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL FORCE IN  
THEIR OWN RIGHT. SPORADIC -- POSSIBLY VIOLENT -- PROTESTS ARE  
LIKELY BUT WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT. THE REFUGEES NONETHELESS  
REMAIN A POTENTIALY IMPORTANT ELECTORAL BLOCK; THE DEMOCRATIC

PARTIES' REACTIONS TO RECOGNITION ARE TAILORED WITH AN EYE TO THEIR  
EFFECTS ON THE REFUGEE VOTE.  
CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

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